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Subject: Portland Harbor Round 2 data question
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I have a specific question to go along with my concerns about “upstream” data. My big concern is that contaminated sediment in the Downtown RM 11-15 section is affecting decisions about acceptable levels in the study area. We’ll have to hit that issue head-on in some forum. But for now, I’m confused about the levels of PCBs (the big risk driver) in the Downtown area.

Figure 6.1-50 shows a maximum PCB concentration in Downtown sediment of 35 ug/kg. This is consistent with Table 6.1-5, which shows a mean PCB Aroclor concentration of about 20 ug/kg.

On the other hand, Figure 6.1-52 and Table 6.1-13 show substantially higher PCB concentrations in the Downtown area, with a mean of 280 ug/kg and a maximum of 7100 ug/kg.

I can’t tell who is right. Am I missing something? Does it have something to do with post ROS data reduction? I doubt it, but I’m not sure. In the 1 March roll-out meeting (page 8 of the slides), the LWG showed a mean PCB sediment value of 280 in Downtown.

- Mike